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City of Salisbury to Receive \$756,650 in Stimulus Funding through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Governor Bev Perdue Announces 140 Transit Projects across NC will Create and Sustain Thousands of Jobs

Salisbury, NC_June 10, 2009 – The City of Salisbury announced today that the Salisbury Transit Division will receive \$756,650 in stimulus funding via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Governor Bev Perdue made the announcement from the state capital, earlier today. In a prepared release, the Governor proclaims that 140 transit projects across the state will receive more than \$103 million in funding to enhance or expand transit options in both rural and urban communities. “Twenty-one urban transit systems will receive more than \$70 million for 77 projects; projects in rural areas across the state totaled more than \$33 million.”

Mayor Susan Kluttz, speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council shares, “We are extremely grateful for being named a recipient of stimulus funding in support of Salisbury Transit operations. Accessible transit services are vital to a community and Salisbury Transit enables our citizens to partake in all aspects of the local environment. By utilizing public transportation, citizens are also able to maintain their independence and remain active in the community when driving a vehicle no longer remains an option.” Mayor Kluttz adds that stimulus funds received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will offer preventative maintenance for the Salisbury Transit facility and support a fleet of six ADA-accessible buses. Funds received will assist with the purchase of spare parts, shop equipment, and the purchase of diagnostic software to sustain the Salisbury fleet. Mayor Kluttz adds, “Public transportation plays a key role in creating jobs, promoting a cleaner environment, and securing energy independence for our country. By creating improved transit operations, we are investing into our nation’s economic and environmental recovery.”

In a release issued by the State of North Carolina Office of the Governor, Perdue announced, “These JobsNOW recovery projects will help create and sustain jobs and provide needed economic development and mobility in counties throughout North Carolina. Not only will they put people to work, they will take people to work.” NCDOT received a total of \$838 million through ARRA funding which includes \$735 million for highway and bridge projects. To date, NCDOT has allocated more than 90 percent of the highway and bridge money received to projects across North Carolina. Governor Perdue and Transportation Secretary Gene Conti are currently working with Senator Kay Hagan, Representative Mel Watts, and the entire NC Congressional Delegation to pursue discretionary grant money included within the ARRA to utilize for the \$300 million replacement of the Yadkin River Bridge on I-85 in Davidson and Rowan counties.

The Salisbury Transit Division provides service to the community with six ADA-accessible buses equipped with ramps, automated voice annunciation systems, and surveillance cameras. Salisbury Transit currently employs a staff of fourteen. The City of Salisbury began offering public transportation in November 1976; service was previously provided to citizens by two privately operated businesses. The current rate for Salisbury Transit bus riders is 1.00 for regular fares with senior citizens and handicapped riders at 50 cents per person. Transfers and children under the age of five are free. Riders may board and disembark from any designated bus stop throughout the City or at the Salisbury Transfer site on Depot Street, located adjacent to the Amtrak Train Station. City buses arrive and depart daily from the transfer site at 15 minutes before and 15 minutes after the hour. Bus service is available Monday through Friday from 6:15 am to 6:45 pm and on Saturday from 8:45 am to 4:15 pm. City buses are non-operational on Sunday.

The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the World Wide Web at www.salisburync.gov. For more information pertaining to recovery funding, North Carolina infrastructure improvements, and NCDOT projects, please visit www.ncdot.gov.

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